

THE JOURNAL



OF THE PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Founded 1915

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P.C.N.S. CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

October 23, 1991. Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

Myth, Religion & Magic in Roman Numismatics

Speaker: Stephen M. Huston

November 27, 1991. Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

Handy Numismatics

Speaker: Dr. Paul Holtzman

December 19, 1991. Thursday at 8:00 pm:

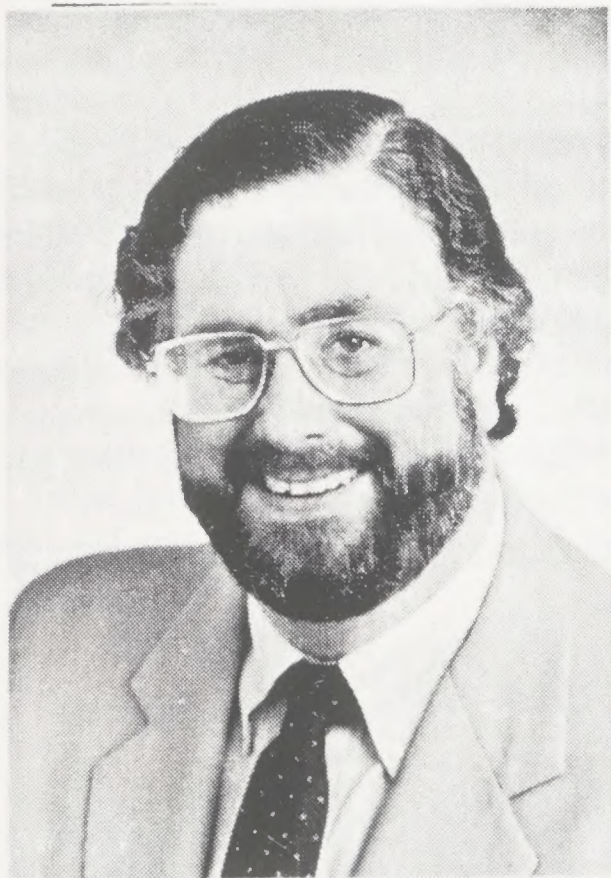
Holiday Party

Please note the change of meeting day for December only.

Monthly meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at
The Knights of Columbus Hall in San Francisco
2800 Taraval Avenue (1 block west of Sunset). Guests are invited.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Rick Webster



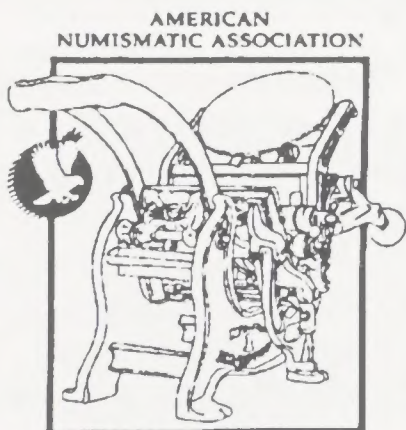
Hello! I hope everyone had a fine summer. As *The Journal* is a quarterly publication, this is my final message to you as president. My two terms are coming to an end. Being president has been an interesting experience. I have enjoyed working with the Board and meeting members at the meetings.

As always, I encourage members to attend the meetings. Bring friends along; guests are always welcome. If you can come to the meetings, bring an exhibit. If you have something that illustrates the talk being given at that meeting, bring it along. However, exhibits do not have to be the same as the topic. New acquisitions, favorite coins of "what is this?" are always welcome.

We are always looking for articles for *The Journal* and speakers for the meetings. If you have not done either, why not give it a try. It is not as hard as you might think.

Articles can be of any length, talks on any numismatic-related subject. We are an easy audience. Try it!

Thanks again, and I hope to see you at the meetings.



THIRD PLACE
REGIONAL NUMISMATIC PUBLICATION

1991

PACIFIC COAST
NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
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COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Current & Notes

by George L. Smyth

Manuel de Falla

The portrait of composer Manuel de Falla appears on the right side of the face of Spain's 100-peseta note. This bill, released by El Banco de España and printed by De Moneda y Timbre, the national printer, measures 134x78 mm and is dated 17 November 1970, although it was not released by the Bank of Spain until 1974. The basic color of the note is brown with light shades of green and orange.

The middle of the bill holds the coat of arms of Spain. Within the shield of the coat is a castle signifying Castile, a lion for Leon, stripes for Aragon and chains of Navarre, the four main independent states of medieval Spain. The left portion of the note contains a watermark of Falla.



The reverse of the note shows a patio scene of the Generalife of Grenada from his famous work, "Nights in the Gardens of Spain."

Spain no longer makes the 100-peseta note. The current series contains notes of the 200-peseta to 10,000-peseta range, but the 100-peseta is still legal tender.

Born in Cadiz on November 23, 1876, Manuel de Falla y Metheu did not decide upon a musical career until his late teens when he attended a hearing of Haydn's "Seven Last Words." He apprenticed for three years under Filipe Pedrell, who had been greatly influenced by the musical renaissance in Spain. This influence included an interest in the 16th-century masters as well as centuries' old folk music. This folk influence was unlike Bartok, who felt that a properly-articulated folk song was as fine

a work of art as a Bach fugue. Rather, Falla felt that something needed to be aesthetically added to the folk music to make it more proper.

Attending the Real Academia de Bellas Artes, he won not only the piano prize but also a prize for his opera *La Vida Breve* (Life is Short) in 1905 although it was not performed until 1913. He earned money by giving piano lessons until he was able to travel to Paris and gain the friendship of such great contemporary composers as Debussy, Ravel and Dukas. Over the next 30 years he enjoyed the status of national artist as he toured throughout western Europe as concert pianist, conductor and composer.

The Civil War in Spain was a great point of anguish for him as he held ties to both sides of the conflict. He placed himself on the side of Franco against the Republicans, primarily because of the Republicans' anti-religious attitudes. When the war ended, he emerged as the country's most esteemed composer, at least in the eyes of the government, and was offered the post of president of the Instituto de España. After a year in office, he realized that he could no longer sympathize with the Franco regime, disillusioned over the treatment of political prisoners. In 1939 a friend assisted with his escape to Argentina where he spent the last years of his life in self-imposed exile.

Falla's reputation rests on a handful of works primarily written in the first 40 years



of his life. He was exceptionally gifted in the adoption of the Andalusian style indigenous to the province of Andalusia, often considered to be the most romantic of the Spanish provincial styles. His experiences and associations in Paris inclined him toward impressionistic tendencies, though a neoclassical idiom can be heard in his later works.

He is best known for his "Nights in the Gardens of Spain" (1911-15), written within a Paris currently enamored with Ravel's evocations of Spain, and "The Three-Cornered Hat" (1919), a ballet based on Alarcón's comical "The Magistrate and the Miller's Wife." His final work, which remained uncompleted at his death, was a massive opera-oratorio called "L'Atlantida."

If you are not able to find this note at the foreign exchange section of your local bank, this "C" note can be purchased through most dealers for about \$3.

The Mints of Constantine I

306–337 A.D.

by Stephen M. Huston

At the beginning of Constantine's reign Diocletian's tetrarchy system of rule by several emperors was in decline. Its collapse within the next few years allowed the political struggles of the new Caesars to evolve into a civil war that lasted a decade. With Constantine's eventual victory over Licinius, a dynastic style of rule returned to Rome that endured with minor changes for most of the 4th century.

The persecution of Christians resumed in part of the empire while Constantine was gaining power (though the persecutions were primarily the work of his co-rulers). The religious conflicts became political-military struggles that lasted for several years and had much to do with Constantine's emergence as the major force once the tetrarchy had collapsed.

The coinage of Constantine the Great was struck at a total of nineteen mints. His first coinage includes mints that closed during his reign, while other mints were opened or moved. Constantine's reign (Caesar 306–7, Augustus 307–337 AD) was a period of turmoil, both political and religious. The pattern of coinage issues, changes of mint sites, and the designs of the coins themselves all attest to these forces.

The nineteen coins shown in the following pages were selected for several reasons. The first goal was to have a coin from each mint; this necessitated taking the only collectible coin in the cases of rare mints. For some mints, coins of specific historic types were chosen as special issues that reflected events of the time. For the rest, the best possible coin for condition and rarity was selected.

This collection was started years ago. The offerings of dealers worldwide, examination of hoards (sometimes thousands of coins) and the careful watching of dealers' stocks in the U.S.A. and Europe all went into completing this difficult set.

The mints of Constantine's era are traditionally arranged geographically, but the two volumes of Roman Imperial Coinage (RIC) that cover this period do not use the same order, nor do they include all of the mints in either volume. We have combined the listings from RIC and offer them in an arrangement we think specialists will recognize without confusing the novice collector, placing the mints in the following order: London, Lugdunum, Treveri, Arles, Rome, Ostia, Carthage, Ticinum, Aquileia, Siscia, Sirmium, Serdica, Thessalonica, Heraclea, Constantinople, Nicomedia, Cyzicus, Antioch and Alexandria.

LONDON

The mint at London was opened by the usurper Carausius in about 286. When Rome recovered Britain from Allectus in 296, the mint at London was restaffed by workers from Gaul (Lugdunum), and Diocletian's reform coinage was issued beginning in 297. Coinage for Constantine as Caesar was first issued at London in 306, the troops at York having proclaimed him when Constantius died there. His coinage as Augustus began in 307, continuing until the mint was closed by Constantine in 325, in conjunction with mint reorganizations and transfers around the empire.

A. Æ (bronze) follis struck late in 307 or 308 AD for Constantine as Augustus. The reverse shows Constantine holding two military standards; his title *PRINCIPI IVVENTVTIS* (Prince of Youth) around, *PLN* in exergue. RIC 111, Scarce.

LUGDUNUM

The Lugdunum mint in Gaul (modern Lyons, France) had been in use by Rome since early Imperial times, though it had periods of inactivity. Constantine's coinage was struck from 306 until the end of his lifetime with the exceptions of coinage suspensions in 316–319 and again in 325–330. The suspension of 325 probably coincided with the closing of London. The only coins struck for circulation were bronze-billon issues.



B. *Æ* follis struck in 314/5 AD for Constantine as Augustus. The reverse shows Sol the Invincible, a religious type intended to appeal to the military who were mainly followers of Mithraism. Constantine was present in Lugdunum during the issue of this coinage in early 315. RIC 20.

TREVERI

This mint at *Augusta Treverorum* (modern Trier) struck continuously throughout Constantine's reign. It was the most important of the western mints early in his reign and served as a temporary capital for Crispus and later for Constantine II (sons of Constantine).

C. *Æ* follis struck circa 324 AD for Constantine as Augustus. The reverse shows Nike over a bound captive with the legend *SARMATIA DE-VICTA*, a type which began in 323 commemorating the defeat of the Sarmatians in 322. RIC 435.

ARLES

The mint at Arles in Gaul was opened by Constantine who moved the mint from Ostia to Arles in 313, closing Ostia shortly after that city was captured from Maxentius. The mint's name was changed to *Constantina* in 328 in honor of Constantine's son, Constantine Junior, and it continued to issue coins with the mintmark *CONST* beyond Constantine's death, causing some confusion for beginners with the coinage of Constantinople.

D. *Æ* follis struck 316 AD for Constantine as Augustus. Sol Invincible on reverse (see coin b. above). Constantine was in Gaul during this issue. RIC 100, Officina A, Rarity 4, only 2 or 3 specimens recorded.

ROME

The main mint at Rome had a confusing period early in Constantine's era, being taken by

the usurper Maxentius who struck coins in the names of several rulers as a bid for their support. Constantine's earliest issues predate Maxentius' usurpation, and Maxentius included Constantine in his issues in 308. Constantine defeated Maxentius in 312, and his own coinage at Rome resumes for the rest of his reign with one brief suspension circa 327–330, while the new capital was being built at Constantinople.

E. Æ follis struck October 312 to early 313 AD for Constantine as Augustus. Legion standards with eagle on central standard and SPQR OPTIMO PRINCIPI legend, RS in exergue. This military victory reverse was struck shortly after the retaking of Ostia and Rome from Maxentius. RIC 350a.

OSTIA

The mint at Ostia (the modern Port of Rome) was opened circa 308 by Maxentius' transfer of the mint from Carthage. Constantine captured Ostia and Rome in late 312 and struck the same basic types at Ostia and Rome until Ostia's closure in early 313 when the facility was moved to Arles. This half-year of coinage is the only period normally found for Constantine from this mint, and coins of the usurper Maxentius are actually the most common for this mint.

F. Æ follis struck October 312 to May 313 AD for Constantine as Augustus. Sol reverse (see coin b. above), MOSTS in exergue. RIC 83.

CARTHAGE

Carthage was opened in 296 to pay the legions stationed in North Africa. Constantine's name appears in 306/7 as Caesar only. The mint was officially closed in 307, although it was used by a minor usurper later, the staff eventually being moved to Ostia by Maxentius. No coins were struck for Constantine as *Augustus* at this mint.

G. Æ follis struck in the Summer of 307 AD for Constantine as Caesar. Carthago is shown standing within a hexa-style temple with CONSERVATORES KART SUAE legend and PKD in exergue. RIC 61, Officina Delta only.

TICINUM

Ticinum (at modern Pavia) was created when Aurelian transferred staff from Mediolanum (Milan) late in 270 AD. The mint began Constantine's coinage as Caesar in 306 and as Augustus in 307, but Maxentius discontinued Constantine's name in 308 AD and closed the mint in 310. Constantine reopened Ticinum's mint in late 312 after defeating Maxentius, and it coined regularly until 326, when the facility was finally moved to the new mint at Constantinople.

H. Æ follis struck 320 AD for Constantine as Augustus. Constantine's laureate head and VOT XX in wreath are the types. RIC 130, Rarity 4, only 2 or 3 recorded.

AQUILEIA

The mint at Aquileia (near modern Trieste) had a varied history with numerous breaks in the coinage. Constantine as Caesar and as Augustus appeared on schedule in 306 and 307, but Maxentius closed the mint about 309/10. Constantine reopened it in late 312, only to close it again in May 313, concurrent with the transfer of Ostia to Arles. Aquileia reopened from 316 to circa 325, then was closed until 334. It struck coins during the last years of Constantine's life.

I. Billon follis struck 320 AD with Constantine as Augustus, helmeted. Bound captives below standard are representative of his campaigns against Licinius. AQP mintmark in exergue, S-F in fields. RIC 48.

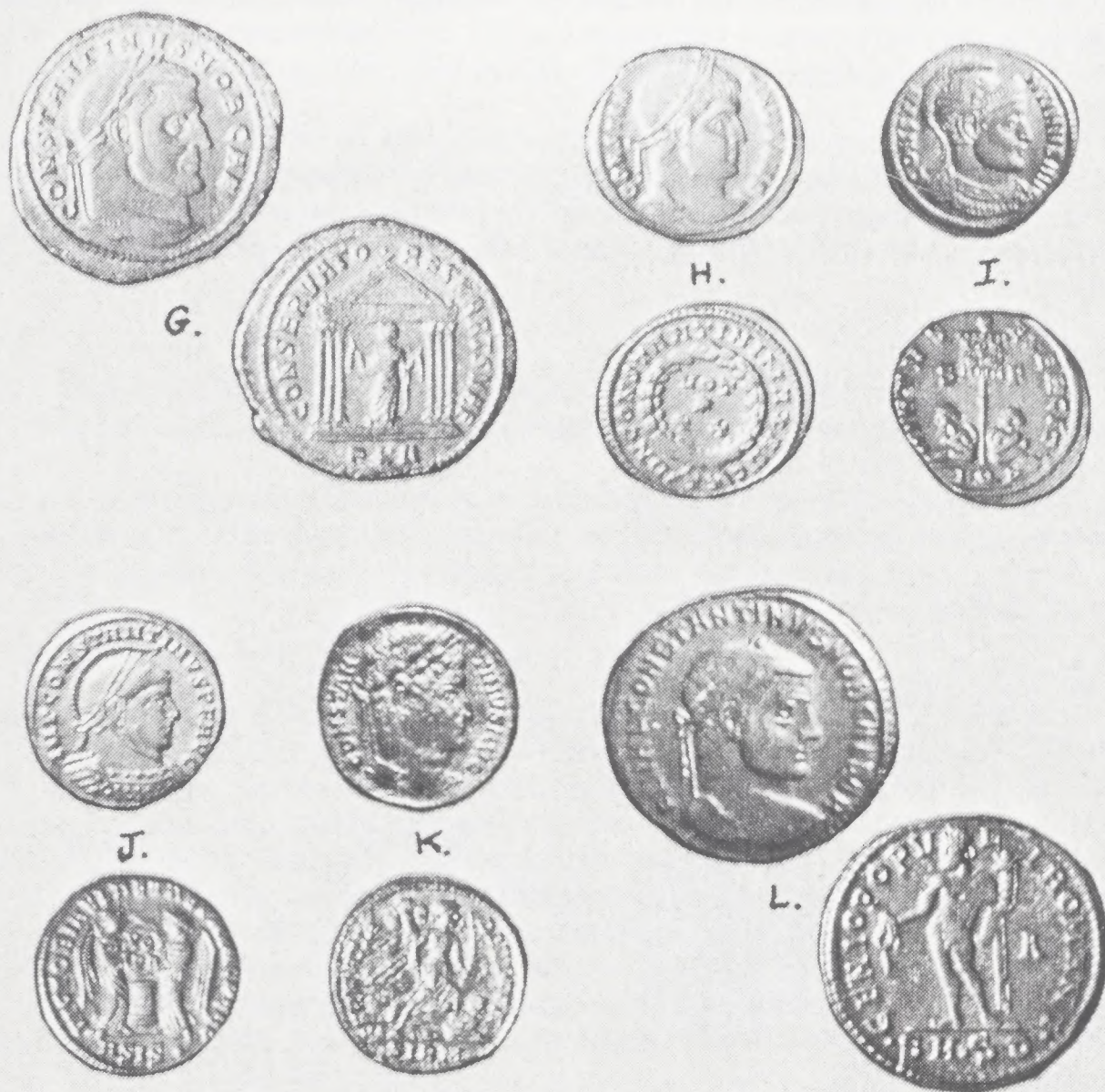
SISCIA

Coinage was struck regularly throughout Constantine's reign at Siscia (modern Sisak in Yugoslavia). Coinage from this mint was scarce until recent years when material from eastern Europe re-entered the numismatic marketplace.

J. Billon follis struck 319 AD with Constantine cuirassed and helmeted. Two Nike figures support a wreath over an altar with ASIS• in exergue. This is another Civil War victory type. RIC 59, Rarity 3, only 4 to 6 pieces recorded.

SIRMIUM

Sirmium operated for about six years beginning in 320, but bronze-billon issues were only



struck in 324/5 AD. Sirmium (modern Sremska Mitrovica in Yugoslavia) served as Constantine's military base of operations against Licinius and the Sarmatians. Most of its coinage was gold, and it is one of Constantine's rarest mints.

K. Æ follis struck 324/5 AD with Constantine laureate head. Nike over Captive with SIRM in exergue and SARMATIA DE-VICTA legend. This type is appropriate to the mint from which military action against the Sarmatians was launched. Constantine was at Sirmium early in 324, when this issue was begun. RIC 48.

SERDICA

Serdica was opened in 303 at the site of modern Sofiya, Bulgaria. A brief issue for Constantine as Caesar was begun in 306 but was cut short early in 307 when Galerius took control of the mint, which he closed in 308. Licinius reopened the mint in 313 for less than a year, striking only gold at that time. Constantine was often in Serdica during the mid Civil War period, but he did not reopen the mint. This is Constantine's rarest mint.

L. Billon follis struck 306 to early 307 AD for Constantine as Caesar. Genius standing with GENIO POPVLI ROMANI legend, A in right field, -SM-SD in exergue. RIC 26, less than 10 pieces recorded from both officinæ, Rarity 3.

THESSALONICA

Galerius opened Thessalonica in 308 AD when Licinius was elevated to Augustus.

Constantine appeared as Augustus in 308 but his title was changed to *Filius Augustorum* (Son of Augustus) in November 308. His coinage was interrupted about 310, but Licinius resumed issues in Constantine's name as Augustus in May 311. Constantine captured the city circa 315. He suspended coinage there from about 321 to 325, then used the mint intermittently until his death.

M. Billon follis struck circa 317 by Constantine as Augustus. Jove holding Nike over eagle with •TS•Δ in exergue. The Jove reverse is typical of issues by Licinius who had controlled the mint when it opened. Constantine visited Thessalonica in March of the year of this issue, shortly after declaring peace with Licinius. RIC 19, Officina Delta, but with only two dots in exergue it was unreported!

HERACLEA

Heraclea (in Turkey) struck coinage for Constantine as Caesar briefly in 306/7 and as Augustus from May 310 to Constantine's death with one interruption by Licinius circa 320/1 AD during their Civil Wars.

N. Æ follis struck 327–9 with Constantine diademed. VOT XXX in wreath reverse. The use of the diadem appears first in the east in the late 320s and rapidly replaces the laureate head type. Constantine visited Heraclea in 329 on his way to Constantinople from Gaul. RIC 90, Officina B with 22 to 30 pieces recorded.

CONSTANTINOPLE

Constantinople, literally the "City of Constantine," was opened for minting by Constantine in 326 while the new city (on the site of old Byzantium) was being constructed to become his new eastern capital. The mint itself was transferred from the west, mainly from Ticinum. It was formally dedicated on May 11, 330 AD, and struck many types which were unique to the new capital. It coined continuously from 326 through the end of Constantine's reign, eventually becoming the capital of the Byzantine Empire. Now called Istanbul in Turkey.

O. Billon follis struck 328/9 AD with Constantine diademed. The Daphne reverse with CONSTANTINI-ANA DAFNE has been convincingly interpreted as relating to Constantine's formal decision to make Christianity the imperial religion. Constantine was in the city often from 327 into 328, then went to Gaul but returned in 329. RIC 39, Officina E, Rarity 3, only 4 to 6 pieces recorded.

NICOMEDIA

Nicomedia in Turkey introduced Constantine as Caesar in July 306 to the end of 308. For all of 309 he was styled as *Filius Augustorum*, reappearing as Augustus in May 310 until the end of his reign.

P. Æ follis struck 317/8 AD with Constantine in Consular garb holding mappa and sceptre. Jove reverse suggests the types controlled by Licinius during this period. RIC 23, Officina B, Rarity 2, only 7 to 10 pieces recorded.

CYZICUS

Cyzicus in Turkey followed the pattern of Nicomedia in recognizing Constantine as Caesar until late 308, but suspended his coinage during 309 completely. In May 310, the coinage for him as Augustus began with most early issues being scarce to rare. His coinage runs throughout the reign with most later varieties being Rare.

Q. Billon follis struck 317–320 with Constantine in Consular robes holding mappa and sceptre. Jove holds a large Nike to left over a small wreath in the field. RIC 8, Officina B, Rare, only 11 to 15 pieces recorded.

ANTIOCH

Antioch has a history as a mint from early Seleukid times, continuing its own coinage under Rome into the mid-3rd century, then issuing Roman standard coinage continuously until Byzantine times. Constantine was given the title Caesar irregularly until after 311, though some



issues of 309 to 311 show him as *Filius Augustorum*, and a few pieces before 311 recognize him as Augustus! Constantine's issues continue uninterrupted at Antioch (modern Antakiyah, Turkey) to his death.

R. Billon follis struck December 324–January 325 AD showing Constantine's laureate head without legend. The reverse carries the normal obverse legend in three lines: *CONSTAN/TINVS/AVG*, a large wreath above, *SMANTE* in exergue with a dot below. RIC 57, officina E, Rarity 5, only 1 specimen recorded. This anepigraphic type was struck for the entire family of Constantine in conjunction with a visit of the family to Antioch at the time Constantius Jr. was officially declared *Caesar* and Helena and Fausta were officially declared *Augustae*.

ALEXANDRIA

This famous city in Egypt began coinage under Ptolemy I, continuing with its own series of Roman-Egyptian denominations until Diocletian's reform. Constantine first appeared here as *Caesar* in 306 through 308. From 309 to May 311 he was styled first as *Caesar*, then *Filius Augustorum*, and eventually as *Augustus*. Only bronze and billon were struck for Constantine, but the issues were continuous throughout his reign.

S. Billon follis struck 327/8 AD for Constantine as *Augustus*. Laureate head, campgate reverse. RIC 45, Officina A, Rarity 2, only 7 to 10 pieces recorded. The "campgate" was a Roman "Mile Fort" normally positioned on the Roman frontier.



THE BOOKWORM

by David W. Lange

This installment of "The Bookworm" will not focus upon one publication but rather will provide a number of short news items of interest to the bibliophile and coin collector alike. A couple of new books have debuted since my last outing in *The Journal*. As usually happens, these were not available until shortly before deadline, so my comments will be restricted to first impressions and general observations.

Among the most widely publicized works to appear in 1991 has been Q. David Bowers' *Commemorative Coins of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia*. While it may seem that every writer in the numismatic field has, at one time or another, put out his own book on U.S. commemoratives, any work by the prolific Mr. Bowers is eagerly awaited. The impetus for issuing yet another overview of the series seems to have been the acquisition by Bowers & Merena Galleries of a large collection of commemorative memorabilia and correspondence. Some of this was on display at the recent ANA Convention in Chicago, and it is employed liberally throughout the new book. These items formed a supplement to the 1930s correspondence of Walter P. Nichols, much of which pertained to commemoratives and formed the basis of an earlier Bowers book about the numismatic hobby of that decade.

The central feature of the new book is, as one would expect, a review of each issue by type, including its conception, design, distribution and present status in the marketplace. The features that are unique to this work include a historical study of the commemorative market broken down into 4-5 year increments and a section devoted to biographies of the designers and sculptors whose works have appeared in the form of commemorative coins. This chapter, in particular, will appeal to the numismatist.

The 768-page *Commemorative Coins of the United States* is available from the publisher in a softcover edition priced at \$39.95 and in hardcover at \$49.95. A deluxe hardbound limited edition is also available at \$75. Add \$3 to all orders for postage. The address is: Bowers & Merena Galleries, Box 1224, Wolfeboro, NH 03894.

Another less heralded book has also made its debut. The revised 4th Edition of *Official A.N.A. Grading Standards for United States Coins* was released during the ANA's centennial convention. The ANA took a great deal of heat for botching the previous edition which used photographs in place of line drawings for the first time in an ANA grading guide. This writer went so far as to pillory the Association in its own backyard by writing a bad review of the 3rd Edition in *The Numismatist*.

I'm pleased and more than a little relieved to say that the new 4th Edition is far superior to its predecessor. The mismatched photographs which stymied a user of the 3rd Edition have been sorted out, and the new introductory material presents the finest essays on the subject of grading U.S. coins that have appeared to date.

While I will still use the line drawings found within the 1st and 2nd Editions for my own grading tasks, I can unhesitatingly recommend the new 4th Edition to anyone

who prefers the application of photographs. At the risk of stepping on a few toes, I will further repeat what I have said previously: the ANA grading guides, with the exception of the errant 3rd Edition, constitute the only such works that are accurate in terms of current market standards.

The ANA grading guide is available at most coin shops and at many coin shows. It may also be ordered directly from the ANA at 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903. The price is \$10.95 plus \$2 for postage.

The October issue of *The Journal* is always my opportunity to express delight, amazement or outrage at the results of the Numismatic Literary Guild's selection of "Book of the Year." To no one's surprise, this year's winner was Q. David Bowers' monumental history of the American Numismatic Association. Although I held some reservations about this work (for my review, see the July issue of *The Journal*), I had to agree with the NLG's selection. No other book came close to it in sheer scope or entertainment value, although the information was already available to anyone with the stamina to read through microfiche files of *The Numismatist*. For those few interested persons, I will note that I have gotten only as far as 1909 in my reading of Bowers' centennial history.

Another item of note is the cataloging and sale by Superior Galleries of G. Lee Kuntz's collection of large cents, complete by Sheldon varieties. Although you will read this column too late to bid in the sale (if you have not already done so), I still recommend acquiring a copy of the catalog. My experience in having received and then later sold catalogs dealing with exceptional collections of early U.S. coppers is that these form one of the surest investments in numismatics. This is particularly true of limited edition hardcover and deluxe library format catalogs.

Over the past five years or so, Superior has undertaken a determined and successful effort to become *the* name in the cataloging and sale of cents and half cents. It has achieved this position through the liberal contracting of recognized experts in the areas of variety attribution, condition census and pedigree. Its sales of coppers during recent years have become major reference works.

While the G. Lee Kuntz sale is not quite in the league of some other Superior outings, it is definitely worth acquiring for your library. Offered are the softbound edition at \$25 for domestic delivery and \$40 outside the U.S. and the hardbound edition at \$40 and \$55, respectively. Address all orders to: Superior Galleries, 9478 W. Olympic Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90212-0754. California residents are asked to include 8.25% sales tax.



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A MECHANICS FAIR MEDAL AND THE INSTITUTE

by Jerry F. Schimmel

This medallion was awarded September 21, 1885, in San Francisco by the jurors responsible for all exhibits in "Class 8, Fire Apparatus and Appliances"—W.J. Harrington, H.C. Macy, A.W. Scott and Martin White. The twentieth Industrial Exhibition of the Mechanics Institute was the occasion and the prize is found listed under "Bronze Medals" in the official report, page 125, item 11. The exposition opened on August 25 and ran through September 26. Held at the Mechanics Pavilion, the hall fronted on the west side of Larkin Street between Hayes and Grove and took up most of the block now occupied by the Civic Auditorium.

The time was one of social and economic consolidation in the city. Since 1850s the Mechanics Institute had provided a major supportive framework for technological innovation and the education needed to sustain the development. At the same time many of the recognized fraternal organizations like the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights Templar and others had established themselves in town, and all of them supported regular public celebrations and charity affairs. Sailors and dockworkers were organizing in response to the appalling conditions found on shipboard and at the docksides. Unions like those for the draymen had been operating for several years. The last of the city's seawalls were under construction and when completed would yield a shoreline on the north and east pretty much as it exists today.

The worst of the physical abuse to Chinese residents was beginning to abate, although it would be several decades before they and other minorities would begin to be treated as citizens with full civil rights. The South-of-Market, Mission and Western Addition residential neighborhoods were nearly complete, and working and lower-middle class white families would predominate in the rows of neat Victorian houses with nice yards. Almost alone their character would change the character of the city, populated until then by single men in "lodgings"—adventurers, sailors, ex-miners and the like—and a number of single women whose main calling was to entertain them.

The railroads dominated all levels of governmental politics and names like Stanford, Huntington, Ralston and Sharon were the topics of conversation in the saloons along Kearny Street and the Palace Hotel Bar. The mayor of the day was Washington Bartlett, a printer by trade, known not only for his politics but for the fact that he had published the first English-language book in the state. Like Jimmy Rolph forty-five years later, he was elected governor and died just after taking office.

The Medal

The obverse of this 50mm medal carries the Mechanics Institute emblem used for all of the organization's awards. The top line reads **Mechanics Institute** and beneath it in the center are three allegorical female figures. The one on the left represents mechanical arts and industry. She is sitting on an anvil and holds a hammer. Her right hand is touching her chin as though deep in thought. Leaning against the anvil are a compass and a gear wheel. In the background is a railroad locomotive with tender and passenger car crossing a viaduct.

The right hand allegory, representing agriculture and the fine arts, is also seated



and holds a harvest of wheat and grapes with a sickle in her right hand. Her left rests on a plow. At her feet are an artist's palette and Greek lyre. In the background is the San Francisco Bay showing the Golden Gate, a steamship, Mile Rock Lighthouse and Fort Point. She looks forward as though into the future.

The center allegory standing on a box in frontal view holds two laurel wreaths, one over each head of the two seated. On the box is inscribed an incuse **MI** monogram. In the exergue is **San Francisco**. There are diesinker's initials, only partially visible. They appear to be **w.p & h.d....**

The reverse at the top reads **Industrial Exhibition, Awarded To** in raised letters. Engraved in the field below and outlined by a laurel wreath is the winner's name and winning exhibit, **Cal Fire Apparatus Mfg. Co., Portable Spray Pump** along with several ornamental flourishes. The date **1885** is incuse below that in a space allotted and appears to have been struck separately, probably differently for each series of awards. Between the date and the cross of the laurel branches is a partial diesinker's mark ...er f.

The California Fire Apparatus Company

Listings for the firm can be found in city directories for only six years, 1883-89, under the heading "Fire Engines—Steam." The managers were Abel F. Spawn in the years 1883-86 and James D. Naismith in the years 1887-89. Its main office seems to have moved several times with addresses at 409 California, 221 Sansome, 211 California and finally at 18 California Street.

A spray pump did not stand alone among the company's competitive exhibits. There were also

- Automatic Hand Grenade (probably not military)
- Climax Fire Extinguisher
- Fruit, Vine and Flower Spray Pumps
- Fruit, Vine and Warehouse Engine Combined Pumps
- Hose Cart and Fire Department Supplies
- Synovial Axle Lubricator (whatever that was).

Besides the medal, the firm received several other awards:

- Grand Bronze Medal for Best Hose Cart
- Silver Medal for Best Carbonic Acid Gas Machine
- Diploma for Fire Department Supplies.

In that day the importance of fire-fighting equipment was paramount. Although 1906 was still two decades away, the city had experienced a great many smaller disasters over the preceding thirty-five years. For many, every Fourth of July was a time when tubs of water and wet blankets were carried to the rooftops and was less a time to celebrate than to stay home in the event such things had to be used.



*View up Larkin Street looking north from 9th & Market (c. 1897)
The large turreted building is the facade of the Sixth Mechanics Pavilion. Note
the apartments and shops beyond the Pavilion which is now the Civic Center
Plaza. The street car side panel says "Market Street Cable Railway Co."*

The Mechanics Institute and Its Pavillions

During the middle and late nineteenth century, the Mechanics Institute was probably the most important of the city's home-grown associations. One of the earliest, its influence extended throughout the state and well into other western states and territories. Organized first in 1854, it was incorporated in April of the following year. The first of its Industrial Exhibitions like the one in 1885 came about in 1857 and from then on were opened almost annually until 1899. Today the Institute is best known for the Mechanics Library located at 57 Post Street and as the originator of one of the first chess clubs in the nation.

In the years just after the Gold Rush, San Francisco and the state were cut off from the rest of the country and, most important to those who were intent on economic development, were physically apart from the main manufacturing and education centers of the time. Transportation to and from the east was limited to overland wagon trains, a ship-rail combination across Panama or by squarerigger around the Horn. All of them required months, even a year or more of tiresome and usually hazardous travel. Because of this the annual fairs were established to "bring to the attention of the world the resources and manufacturing possibilities of California" and vice versa.

To encourage their participation, no charge was ever made to exhibitors. Displays included equipment from established industries like that of the Fire Apparatus Company to crude, home-made Rube Goldberg devises by individual inventors. The creative arts as well were always represented.

Over time the prizes awarded to these exhibitions became so important that nearly all firms advertising in the media prominently displayed illustrations of medals they had won. Examples can readily be found in most late nineteenth century newspapers and theatre programs. Funding for the Institute came originally by private subscription from its members, but ticket admissions to the fairs soon became the main source of revenue. The library was established at the same time as the exhibitions and for most of the same reasons. In those days there were no adult night classes or colleges and bookshops were non-existent.

The pavilion in which the twentieth exhibition was held and where this medal was distributed was the sixth and last (1882-1906). The first two, from 1857 to 1864, were located in what is now the Financial District. The next two were placed in Union Square, which as the Institute's librarian commented, was "...then a sand lot on the outskirts of town." The fifth was at Eighth and Market (1874-81), a site later used for the Crystal Palace Market. In 1899 the last fair was held. By then the organization reckoned that it had done as much as it could to inform the world about the technology available in the west.

In 1906 the pavilion and library were both destroyed by the fire. The library has been at its present Post and Market location since 1910, and the site of the last pavilion was sold to the city and used for the Exhibition (now Civic) Auditorium of the 1915 World's Fair.

A First-Hand Recollection

One oldtimer describes his impressions of the fairs: "It came every fall when the old place would be dressed up like a circus parade. Gay bunting was hung around the walls, gaudy pennants and banners fluttered in the breeze, electric globes studded the exhibition booths and overhead were strung numerous sputtering arc lights. Music blared everywhere and this with little shrieks of laughter and the hum of talk made it sound like an asthmatic hurdy gurdy of a merry-go-round.

"In the gallery, which ran around the building, was the art exhibit, and in the rear, in a sort of partitioned-off annex, was the machinery exhibit. Of course we visited these because we wanted to get our money's worth, but who would care to look at a lot of black machinery when there was so much more fun on the main floor?

"That was where the main exhibits were, most of them food and drink. Every exhibitor gave you a souvenir, and in making the rounds you collected quite a load of books, pictures, sticks with whistles at the end of them for the kids, and miniature bottles of beer, so small that a dozen would not have made a healthy drink. These were all kept as mementos until the fair next year."

Important People

Between exhibitions the old hall served much as does the Civic Auditorium today. Bazaars, charity fairs, athletic events and special celebrations were scheduled year in, year out. "Gentleman Jim" Jeffries was booked there into two important prize fights

around the turn of the century. Booker T. Washington gave lectures on his experience with the Tuskegee Institute, introduced at the time by Mayor Eugene E. Schmitz, later convicted for graft. (There was no connection between the two!)

Andrew Hallidie, best known today as the inventor of the cable car, was the Institute's president (1868-77) and often took personal charge in managing the fairs. Adolph Sutro, later mayor of the city and builder of the most ornate of the Cliff Houses, sought the support of the Institute and obtained from it a favorable recommendation on his Virginia City mine drainage tunnel. Writers Mark Twain and Ambrose Bierce were regularly assigned by their newspapers to cover the fairs in the 1860s and 1870s.

Final Comments

The Mechanics Institute was the most important early promoter of industrial development in the state and an innovator in technical education. But remarkably it had the wisdom to see that its usefulness and that of the fairs had come to an end, an introspective behavior uncommon among American organizations. The library on Post Street is its main tangible legacy, but other reminders exist, less monumental, but still capable of evoking visions of past events. The medal is one of those.

It was only one of the exhibition's several award classifications which included Gold Medal, Grand Silver Medal, Grand Bronze Medal, Silver Medal, Bronze Medal and Diploma. From the number of prizes listed in the 1886 report, it appears that a substantial number were distributed in that year alone. But this author has never seen another medal like the above in displays by contemporary numismatic dealers in the glass cases of antique show stalls. It is likely that only a precious few have ever survived.

Sources

The San Francisco Public Library, especially the **The San Francisco History and Archives Room**:

- photograph of the street scene
- *Old Mechanics Pavilion Gay Center In Past* by Bob Burgh, *S.F. Chronicle*, Sept. 4, 1934.
- *Report of the Twentieth Industrial Exhibition of the Mechanics Institute* (1886)
- San Francisco City Directories
- *Some Notes on the History of the the Mechanics Institute* by Kathleen T. Pabst, Librarian (undated)

San Francisco Almanac by Gladys Hanson (1980)

San Francisco: Mission to Metropolis by Oscar Lewis (1966)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE for NEXT ISSUE

In order to streamline the publishing of *The Journal*, we have established submission deadlines for future issues. The next deadline for articles and columns is December 1. Thank you. The Editors.

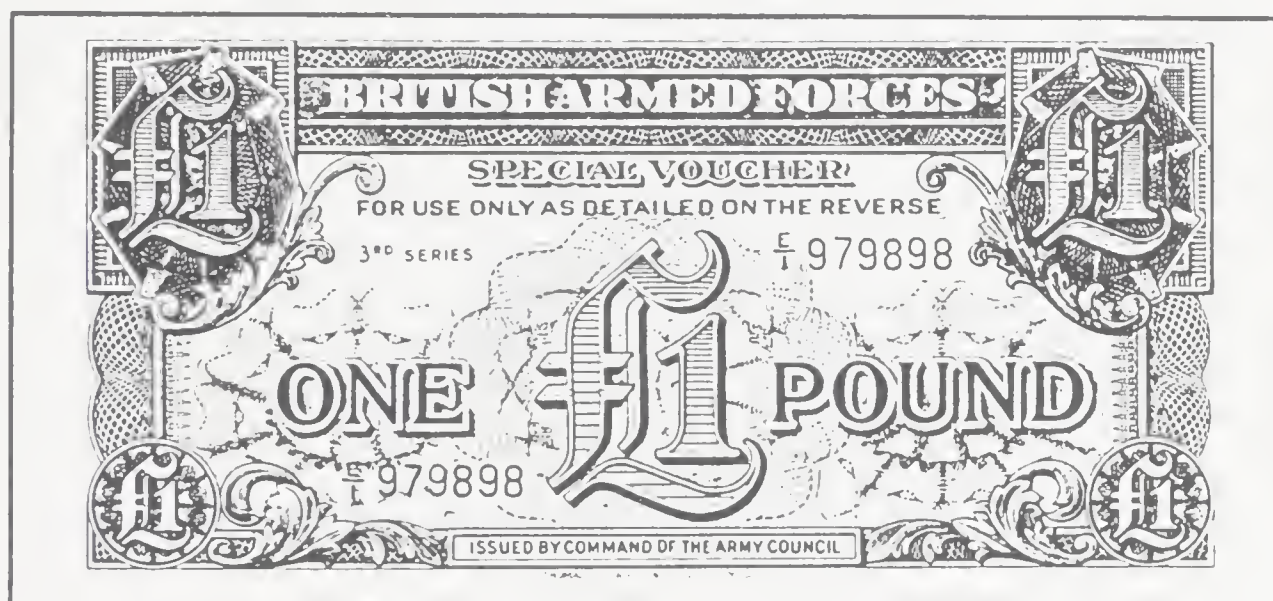
The Syngraphics Scene

by Ken Barr

British Armed Forces Special Vouchers

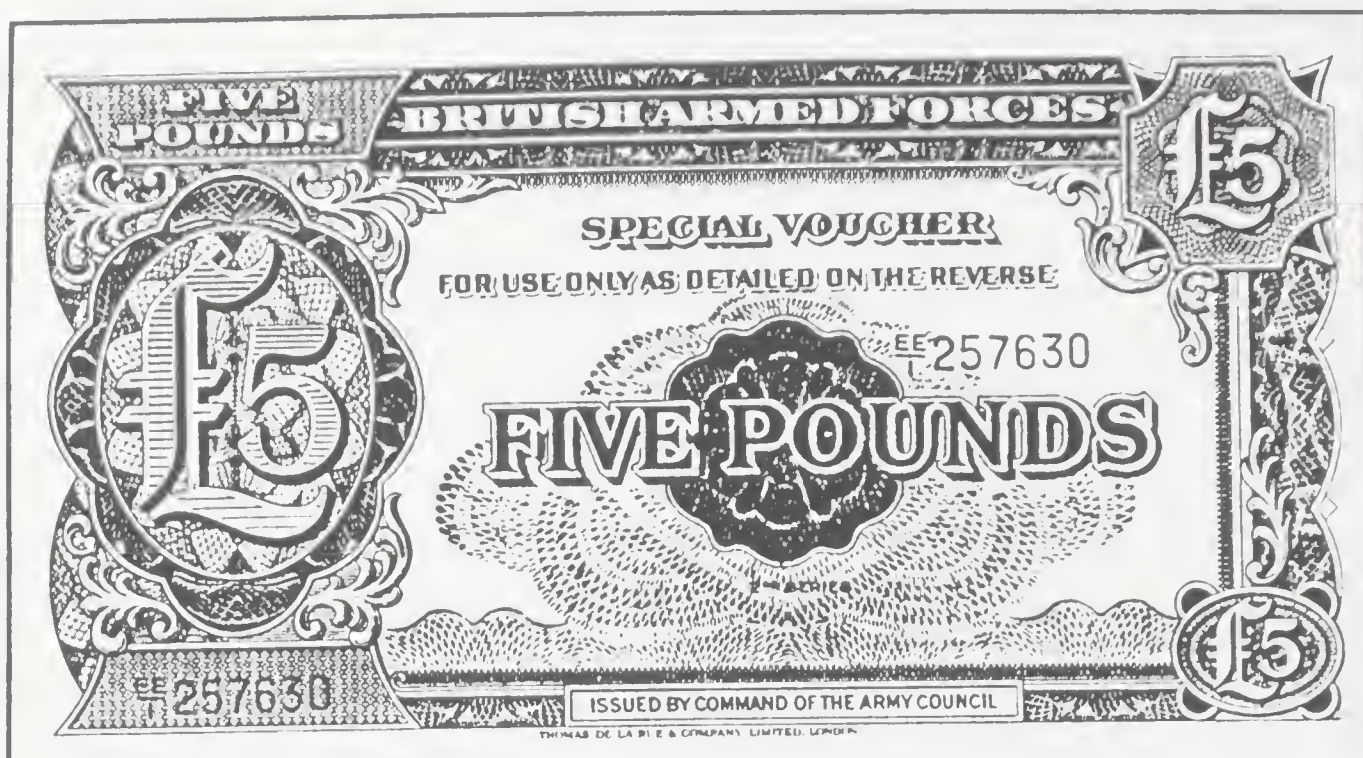
World paper money collectors should keep their eyes open for any "super deals" in the area of British Armed Forces Special Vouchers. Previously quite rare for the most part, a *small* hoard was recently dispersed, considerably depressing the market value for some of these notes.

Similar to Allied Military Currency discussed in a previous column, these vouchers were used by British military forces in occupied countries, especially Germany, from the end of World War II to the late 1970s. The first series (1946) was used in Europe and Asia and is available in denominations from 3 pence to 1 pound, although many denominations are scarce in high grade. The second series (1950) was somewhat less common, at least until the hoard appeared. The third series, used in the Suez in 1956, was similarly uncommon. The fourth series was not issued and was in fact known only in specimen form until a remainder lot (later hole cancelled as part of the purchase agreement) was sold by the British defense ministry in the early 1980s. The fifth issue was, and remains, rare, while the modern sixth issue (1972) was denominated in new pence and used in Berlin until 1977.



Collectors active about ten years ago may remember the promotion of the 10-shilling fourth issue notes (Pick M35) by Allen Shawn Feinstein. These were the notes sold by the defense ministry to Richard Lobel, hole cancelled, then resold to Feinstein. His retail prices of about \$100 per note have not held up well, as the current market value is less than \$10. The other notes purchased by Feinstein were not as heavily promoted and generally remain off the market today. For the record, these include the second series 5 shilling note (M20), the third series 1, 5 and 10 shilling notes (M26, 27 and 28) and the fourth series 1 shilling note (M32).

Deja vu happened all over again in early 1991 when the British defense ministry decided to auction off the remainder of the vouchers they had stockpiled. Included in



the February 4 Phillips sale AS A SINGLE LOT was approximately 17 million of these notes spread over several series/denominations. According to the auction catalog, this lot included 352 boxes of notes weighing in at 33,000 pounds. (That's 33,000 pounds of weight, or over 16 tons.) It sold for 240,350 pounds (including the buyer's fee), or about \$425,000. Not much on a per-note basis, but quite a bit in the aggregate! These notes, which were NOT required to be cancelled, include the second series 1 and 5 pound notes (Pick M22 and M23), the third series 1 pound note (M29), the fourth series 1 pound note (M36) and the sixth series 5, 10 and 50 new pence (M44, 45 and 46). Although it had previously been thought that only Thomas De La Rue had printed the latter three notes, the lot included notes printed by both TDLR and Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. It is assumed that these BW printed notes will be given an "b" suffix in the next Pick catalog, while the TDLR printed notes will be given an "a" suffix.

So what are these former rarities, many previously unpriced in Pick, with those that were priced cataloging up to \$90 each, worth in today's market? A quick check of the *Bank Note Reporter* of August 1991 shows one ad selling the ten-piece set for \$15.75 retail (and a "Dealers please contact us for quantity prices ..." request), while another offers the second series 1 pound note (M22) in 1,000 piece lots for \$450.00. Forty-five cents a note with the current catalog value being \$25.00! Looks like there might be a reduction in the next edition....

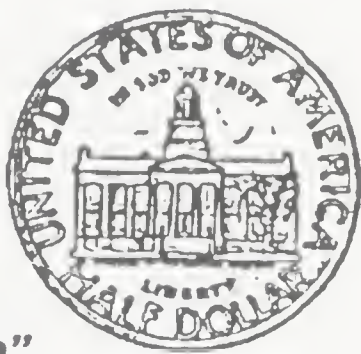
In any event, these are certainly historical British notes, very worthy of consideration for inclusion in a world paper money collection, all crisp uncirculated, and suddenly very inexpensive compared to just a few years ago. But you'd better hurry, who knows how long the seventeen million pieces will last?

References and Suggestions for Further Reading

- Fred Schwan, "Values Changing as Military Vouchers Find Way to Market", *Bank Note Reporter*, May 1991, page 1
- Albert Pick, Colin R. Bruce and Neil Shafer, *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money*, Sixth Edition, Krause Publications, 1991



1946 Iowa Statehood
Centennial
Commemorative
Half Dollar:
Part Nine



"Collectors, Too, Buy the Coin"
Banks and Distribution

by Michael S. Turrini

Dedication: This ninth article in this Iowa half dollar series is respectfully dedicated to Joseph R. Sirois, my traveling companion, fellow coin hobbyist and dear friend, in token of his fellowship and his interest in this series.

In the previous article (*The Journal of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society*, July 1991) the background was reviewed that prompted the state of Iowa and its Iowa Centennial Committee in late 1946 to develop a unique and elaborate plan for the distribution and sales of its commemorative half dollar. In its Report of Activities of Iowa Centennial Committee, the committee proudly wrote that they "frankly admit the situation is unique."¹ In this article, the Iowa banks' involvement and distribution method will be summarized. Future articles will continue with the sales plan that enabled the Iowa Centennial Committee to proudly and correctly claim "ninety percent of the coins were sold within the first thirty days of the sale."²

Ralph Evans (1896-1973), chairman of the Iowa Centennial Committee's Sub-Committee on the Coin and Stamp, was the driving force and main member, as the late Governor Robert D. Blue (1898-1989) referred to him, for this commemorative half dollar (*The Journal of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society*, April 1991). Mr. Evans, whose meticulous records confirm his obsession to do what was right and best, is the main source for information as to why Iowa adopted such a detailed and elaborate plan. His famous Important Memorandum of November 15, 1946, speaks convincingly:

The opinions expressed to me were to the effect that United States Coins, particularly Commemorative Issues, should not be used for exploitation and profit by Coin Dealers or other strictly commercial interests or individuals. Furthermore, the officials of The U. S. Treasury believed Commemorative Medals should be used instead of Coins.

During all of my conferences with U. S. Treasury officials, as well as with Iowa officials, I emphasized the fact that members of the Iowa Centennial Committee were determined to exercise very strict control over the distribution and sale of the Iowa Commemorative Half-dollar, if its issuance were authorized by Congress.³

The closing sentence is most important for understanding the motive behind the Iowa half dollar's distribution and sales.

To begin, why were the banks and the Iowa Bankers Association (IBA) selected to distribute the coins? Why were not some other agencies nor the county or municipal governments used? Nothing has become known to indicate that any other plan was proposed. The author's opinion is that the banks were evenly distributed across the

state and its 99 counties. First, most communities had one or even two or more small banks. Also, the IBA was an established and reputable organization. Further, the banks had already assisted in promoting and handling War Savings Stamps, War Bonds, OPA Points and such during the recent Second World War.

In addition, Frank Warner (1888-1982), the IBA's executive secretary of more than 50 years, was very conscientious of the bank's public image. Having weathered the bank failures and turmoil of the 1930's depression, he was determined to involve the banks "in a high level of civic responsibility," to use Governor Blue's own words. In his initial bulletin to the banks, Bulletin #5558, December 4, 1946, Mr. Warner confirms, "Banks have been designated because they cover every section of the State, and thus it is believed afford the greater all-round convenience to Iowa buyers".⁵ Furthermore, both the IBA and the banks would provide their time and service free, which later was computed to have saved an estimated \$30,000 in "sales and distribution of the coin".⁶ The IBA's involvement in the distribution and sales was from November 1946 through February 1947. The IBA later billed \$296.13 to the state treasurer's office for its expenses, primarily mailing and including \$98.10 for mimeographing.

This plan was developed in correspondence and meetings involving Mr. Evans, his sub-committee, Mr. Warner, State Treasurer John M. Grimes and Governor Blue. The input and support of the banks were solicited and confirmed at the famous November 15, 1946, meeting as reviewed in the previous article. So enthusiastic and conscientious was Mr. Warner in this half dollars' project that on November 22, 1946, just days after the November 15 meeting, he had developed seven typed legal-size pages of proposed letters, forms and rules, all ready to be reproduced and mailed!⁷ The entire Iowa Centennial Committee adopted the plan unanimously at its December 1, 1946, meeting.

How was such a large mintage—100,000—to be fairly and equably distributed, guaranteeing the committee's objective "to keep the initial distribution out of the hands of speculators"?⁸ Ninety thousand half dollars were allocated first only to Iowans under a one-half-dollar-per-person rule and were divided among the 99 counties according to population. Of the remaining 10,000 half dollars, half were for out-of-state purchasers and half were held in reserve. The available records do not explain how these figures were decided.

The IBA began work on this distribution immediately. Frank Warner had "the revised manuscript to Mr. Evans on Monday evening, December 2, for his inspection and corrections".⁹ By Friday, December 6, Mr. Warner had replied with a final manuscript including the rules and necessary forms.

To divide and compute the number of half dollars per county and then for each bank within each county, Mr. Warner contracted the services of Bemis, Ream, Campbell, and Harrigan, certified public accountants, in Des Moines, who billed the IBA \$135 for their work. Their tabulations, "necessitated quite a little work and most accurate exactness."¹⁰ They were completed on Wednesday, December 4, which was also the date of the first mailings to the banks, the multi-page Bulletin #5558. These mailings "were completed today [Friday, December 6] to all the 658 Iowa banks".¹¹ Note the speed and action taken. In less than three weeks, a plan was developed, finalized and implemented. Within a week from the plan's adoption, printed information was already in the mails to all Iowa banks. All this was accomplished decades before personal computers, desk-top publishing, FAX or quick printing!

Counties listed as to the number of IOWA
CENTENNIAL COINS each gets according
to its population (Fed. Census—1940)
(Based upon 90,000 coins for the State.)

No.	County	Popula- tion	Number of Coins	No.	County	Popula- tion	Number of Coins
1	Adams.....	10,156	360	51	Delaware.....	18,487	655
2	Clarke.....	10,233	363	52	Cass.....	18,647	661
3	Osceola.....	10,607	376	53	Poweshiek.....	18,758	665
4	Ida.....	11,047	392	54	Jackson.....	19,181	680
5	Davis.....	11,136	395	55	Cherokee.....	19,258	683
6	Ringgold.....	11,137	395	56	O'Brien.....	19,293	684
7	Louisa.....	11,384	404	57	Buena Vista....	19,838	703
8	Worth.....	11,449	406	58	Hamilton.....	19,922	706
9	Audubon.....	11,790	418	59	Jones.....	19,950	707
10	Van Buren.....	12,053	427	60	Washington.....	20,055	711
11	Dickinson.....	12,185	432	61	Wright.....	20,036	711
12	Adair.....	13,196	468	62	Floyd.....	20,169	715
13	Wayne.....	13,308	472	63	Crawford.....	20,536	728
14	Emmet.....	13,406	475	64	Buchanan.....	20,991	744
15	Humboldt.....	13,459	477	65	Winnebago.....	22,263	789
16	Grundy.....	13,518	479	66	Tama.....	22,426	795
17	Howard.....	13,531	480	67	Hardin.....	22,530	799
18	Winnebago.....	13,972	495	68	Carroll.....	22,770	807
19	Decatur.....	14,012	497	69	Harrison.....	22,767	807
20	Mitchell.....	14,121	501	70	Benton.....	22,879	811
21	Taylor.....	14,258	506	71	Plymouth.....	23,502	833
22	Madison.....	14,525	515	72	Appanoose.....	24,245	860
23	Monroe.....	14,553	516	73	Clayton.....	24,334	863
24	Lucas.....	14,571	517	74	Dallas.....	24,649	874
25	Fremont.....	14,645	519	75	Page.....	24,887	882
26	Mills.....	15,064	534	76	Mahaska.....	26,485	939
27	Chickasaw.....	15,227	540	77	Kossuth.....	26,630	944
28	Lyons.....	15,374	545	78	Marion.....	27,019	958
29	Hancock.....	15,402	546	79	Sioux.....	27,209	965
30	Montgomery.....	15,697	557	80	Fayette.....	29,151	1034
31	Jefferson.....	15,762	559	81	Boone.....	29,782	1056
32	Palo Alto.....	16,170	573	82	Muscatine.....	31,296	1110
33	Pocahontas.....	16,266	577	83	Jasper.....	31,496	1117
34	Union.....	16,280	577	84	Johnson.....	33,191	1177
35	Franklin.....	16,379	581	85	Story.....	33,434	1186
36	Greene.....	16,599	589	86	Marshall.....	35,406	1255
37	Shelby.....	16,720	593	87	Des Moines.....	36,804	1305
38	Cedar.....	16,884	599	88	Lee.....	41,074	1456
39	Iowa.....	17,016	603	89	Webster.....	41,521	1472
40	Allamakee.....	17,184	609	90	Cerro Gordo....	43,845	1555
41	Guthrie.....	17,210	610	91	Wapello.....	44,280	1570
42	Calhoun.....	17,584	624	92	Clinton.....	44,722	1586
43	Sac.....	17,639	625	93	Dubuque.....	63,768	2261
44	Warren.....	17,695	627	94	Pottawattamie..	66,756	2367
45	Clay.....	17,762	630	95	Black Hawk....	79,946	2835
46	Bremer.....	17,932	636	96	Scott.....	84,748	3005
47	Butler.....	17,986	638	97	Linn.....	89,142	3161
48	Henry.....	17,994	638	98	Woodbury.....	103,627	3674
49	Monona.....	18,238	647	99	Polk.....	195,835	6944
50	Keokuk.....	18,406	653				
					TOTAL.....	2,538,268	90,000

Figure 1

The 90,000 half dollars were divided by the number of counties (99) and their population (2,538,268) as based on the 1940 Federal census. Adams County with just 10,156 people was assigned 360 half dollars followed by Clarke County with only 10,233 people having 363 half dollars. The opposites were Polk County with a large population of 196,835 receiving 6,944 half dollars followed by Woodbury and its

103,627 people having 3,674 half dollars. For those interested in statistics, the CPAs compiled 'Chart C' that was sent out as Bulletin #5562, Thursday, December 5, 1946, from the IBA (Figure 1.) Note that only one county received more than 5,000 half dollars; 19 counties received more than 1,000 half dollars each, but 19 other counties received less than 500 half dollars each.

Within each county, the half dollars were divided among the banks according to their "net deposits (that is, less inter-bank and public deposits)"¹² as of June 30, 1946. Why this factor was used is unknown. All the banks were included in the tabulations, even though participation was voluntary. All the tabulations and listings were arranged and tabled in a large 14-page manuscript titled 'Chart B' and had the lengthy title of "Allocation Tables Used In The State-Wide Distribution Of The Iowa Centennial Commemorative Half Dollar." Each county had a differing number of banks of varying size and assets. Branch banking was not practiced in Iowa at this time, so all the banks were listed individually in 'Chart B'.

One county, Clarke, had only one bank, the Clarke County State Bank in Osceola, which received the county's entire 363 half dollars. One county, Davis, had but two banks, the Davis County Savings Bank and the Exchange Bank, both in Bloomfield, which shared the 395 half dollars for Davis County. The Davis County Savings Bank got 283 half dollars and the smaller Exchange Bank got 112 half dollars.

So complete and accurate were the CPAs and their charts that the average statewide distribution was calculated as one Iowa half dollar per 28.2 Iowans and \$18,544.67 of net deposits. All the dollar amounts were computed to the cent (\$.00) and all percentages to the ten thousandth's place (.0000). However, all half dollars were rounded off to the whole half. No half of a half!

On Wednesday, December 4, 1946, IBA Bulletin #5558 was mailed to all 658 banks within the state. This bulletin was a mimeographed memorandum composed of four parts and signed by Governor Blue. The instructions were quite lengthy and detailed. Rules were specific and any possible questions were answered. Dates and deadlines were clearly published and the forms to be used were reproduced. Nothing was left to chance nor to question. Some 700 copies of the bulletin were mimeographed, and those mailed went as first class mail at the total cost of \$21.90. This included not only the postage but the mimeographing for a six-page legal-size bulletin!

Bulletin #5558 informed each bank of the quota of half dollars and requested the bank's assistance: Your kind cooperation is invited by the undersigned to aid in the sale and distribution of the commemorative "Half Dollars" arranged for by the IOWA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE.¹³

As mentioned, there are four parts to this lengthy bulletin. The introductory paragraphs were followed by Part I, Rules That Iowa Banks Will Follow; Part II, Kindly Note These Important Dates; Part III, Form No. 1 and Form No. 2 and Some General Comments; and Part IV, Conclusion. Just by reading these headings, one can surmise the detail and elaborateness given to the distribution and sales.

Rules and deadlines will be reviewed and Form No. 2, Purchaser's Application Form, will be explained in the next articles. Form No. 1, Order Form For "Banks" Use Only!!, is given in Figure 2. This form had to be submitted and on file no later than Thursday, December 12, 1946, and "No such orders will be accepted after that date. No deviation from these rules may be made...", and "FORM NO. 1 or a type-written facsimile of it **must** be used by banks ordering coins."¹⁴ Heading all that was included in Bulletin #5558 was this instruction: "Please observe that this letter is **confidential**

ORDER BLANK FOR "BANKS" USE ONLY!!

(All bank orders for coins must be on file with Treasurer of State by not later than Thursday, December 12, 1946.

No orders from Banks will be received after that date.

This "Order Blank" or a facsimile of it must be used.

Thanks.)

Hon. J. M. Grimes
Treasurer of State
State House

December _____, 1946

Des Moines

Dear Sir:

The undersigned bank desires to participate in the sale of the especially minted half-dollars commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the admission of Iowa to Statehood.

Through advice dated Wednesday, December 4, 1946, and received by us from the IOWA BANKERS ASSOCIATION upon your behalf and that of the IOWA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE and the GOVERNOR, we are informed that our bank's quota of these coins according to your office is _____ for which the purchase price is \$2.50 per coin net to your office. Therefore, you will find enclosed herewith our remittance (by bank draft or bank expense check; no personal checks will be accepted) payable to your order as TREASURER OF STATE for the sum of \$_____ in full payment. We understand that the sale price of \$2.50 for each coin cannot be deviated from by us. We stand ready to abide by that rule as well as all other rules which have been set up in order try to bring about the greatest possible fairness to our Iowa people in the allocation and sale of these coins to them. It is our further understanding that the DES MOINES CLEARING HOUSE BANKS have been designated by you as coin safekeeping depositories for your office and will make shipment (prepaid) as you direct. Therefore, kindly have the

_____ Bank in Des Moines, ship these coins to us.

Thanks.

As a public service in helping to commemorate the great Centennial event of Iowa's admission to the Union, we like other Iowa banks are pleased to give gratuitously our clerical and routine services to the IOWA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, the GOVERNOR, and the TRESURER OF STATE in helping in the sale of these commemorative coins in our local community in this country.

Awaiting your further advice, we are

Yours very truly,

NAME OF BANK _____

OFFICER _____

COUNTY _____

TOWN _____

Figure 2

to **your** BANK until after the State Officials officially announce within the next few days ALL of the RULES—Thanks!".¹⁵

Nothing was omitted or left to chance. This obsession clearly supports the Iowa Centennial Committee's resolve to prevent any complaints of abuses, dishonesty or favoritism that haunted many prior commemorative coinage issues of the 1920s and 1930s. In "Part IV, Conclusion," a final plea was made for the individual bank's cooperation and that any "clerical and routine work performed...is gratuitously extended".¹⁶

As can be read in Form No. 1 (Figure 2), the banks had to pay \$2.50 in advance for each half dollar, and "No personal checks will be accepted".¹⁷ Out of 658 banks, "six hundred fifty of the State's banks participated in the distribution,"¹⁸ something Governor Blue proudly wrote, over 40 years later. The banks' "good will...achieved a distribution of the coins throughout the State".¹⁹

Why did those few eight banks fail to participate? Thanks to the research of Larry Adams, three of the eight banks can be identified along with the reason for their refusal.²⁰ The Exchange State Bank in Springville replied objecting to the red tape and being short-handed, but it was willing to take just 10 half dollars if these could be delivered without the red tape. The Luxemburg Savings Bank in Luxemburg answered that it had no inquiry on the centennial coins from their customers who are chiefly farmers who do not take much interest in coin collections. The Lineville State Bank in Lineville was quite candid in its refusal: "If the State doesn't trust the bank enough to send these coins out at face value," it would not "care to cooperate." No record has become available that itemizes which banks later sold-out, returned half dollars, or kept half dollars for future use, as will be explained in future articles.

Footnotes

1. Iowa Centennial Committee, Report of Activities of Iowa Centennial Committee, p. 15.
2. Ibid., p.15.
3. Ralph Evans, Important Memorandum, November 15, 1946.
4. Minutes of the Iowa Centennial Committee meeting, meeting of December 1, 1946.
5. Iowa Bankers Association, Bulletin #5558, December 4, 1946. Note that only three days had passed since the committee meeting.
6. Iowa Centennial Committee, loc. cit. Since some \$197,000 would be finally earned from the sales, this \$30,000 saved was a significant amount.
7. Mr. Warner continued his interest even after the IBA's involvement and sales had ceased by reproducing everything—bulletins, letters, charts, forms, etc.—in the IBA's Sixty-First Annual Convention Proceedings. This book is a major reference for this series. Mr. Warner's action to reproduce everything was also suggested by Ralph Evans.
8. Iowa Centennial Committee, loc. cit.
9. Frank Warner, Memorandum, December 6, 1946, to Ralph Evans, et al.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Iowa Bankers Association, Bulletin #5558, December 4, 1946.
14. Ibid. Note the formality and contractual wording.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Governor Robert D. Blue, Executive Order, January 5, 1949.
19. Governor Robert D. Blue, letter of August 15, 1989, to this author.

A BOOK REVIEW FROM A COLLECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

by David F. Clenlewicz



A recent catalog on the numismatic market should satisfy token collectors and other numismatists, particularly those residing in California or interested in the history of the early west. *Early California Counters* by L.B. Fauver is a study of California counters. Fauver gives the reader a brief overview of the history of the period, where and how California counters were used and their origin. As with other catalogs by Fauver, he offers the reader a detailed listing of the various dies and die combinations. Besides attributing the numerous dies and die states, Fauver also links the pieces with various die sinkers. The reader is aided in attributing pieces throughout the catalog by numerous enlarged photos.

The only weakness of the catalog is the quality of the printed excerpts from *Lippincott's Pronouncing Gazetteer Of The World*, 1855 edition. Though sometimes difficult to read, the text from this 1855 edition does give the reader a contemporary view of California and is worth the reading effort.

Spiral bound, the catalog is excellent for viewing and comparing actual counters with the plates in the book. You have probably noticed by now that I have not defined counters. Learn about these fascinating pieces from the expert by ordering a copy of this great catalog. It might change your collecting interests forever!

The catalog is available for \$16.90 plus California sales tax, postpaid from Oak Grove Publications, P. O. Box 521, Menlo Park, California 94026.

Iowa Half Dollar, cont.

20. These three letters were obtained by Larry Adams in researching the files of the Iowa Bankers Association.

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CLEOPATRA, Queen of Rome

"I will one day give judgment in the Roman capitol." —Cleopatra

Cleopatra the Great became Queen of Egypt at about age 17 on the death of her father, Ptolemy Auletes, in 51 BC. Auletes had ruled at the pleasure of Rome, having regained the throne against public opinion in Egypt with the help of Roman troops. Cleopatra inherited a land that most people already viewed as a province of Rome.

Cleopatra ruled, as tradition required, with her eldest brother, who was only about nine years old in 51 BC. She was accused by palace officials of trying to *remove* her young brother after a few years, and the public rose against her. She fled and raised an army to recover her throne. At the same time, the Roman wars between Pompey and Caesar were reaching their climax. Pompey was defeated by Julius Caesar and fled to Egypt for protection in the land of his old ally's (Auletes) children. Realizing the power of Rome was finally in Caesar's hands, the young Ptolemy and his advisors assassinated Pompey and sent his head to Caesar who was already in pursuit.

Julius Caesar arrived in Egypt and took his 4,000 troops to Alexandria while both Cleopatra and Ptolemy were away with their own troops, encamped against each other. Caesar ordered them both to return to their capitol. Ptolemy arrived first without his forces, but Cleopatra arranged to be secretly smuggled into the palace soon thereafter to avoid any palace plots on her life. Caesar presented the young siblings publicly as the reunited rulers of Egypt under his authority, though he had already taken Cleopatra as his lover.

Public resentment against Caesar by the Egyptians resulted in the troops of Egypt being organized to attack Alexandria to remove the Roman. Caesar was reduced to defending a small section of the city with his few troops while awaiting relief forces. Cleopatra's younger sister, Arsinoë, who was about 15 years of age, escaped the city and was declared queen by the Egyptian forces. The young Ptolemy was released by Caesar in negotiations and declared king, leaving Cleopatra with Caesar, still fighting to survive near the Pharos at Alexandria when relief finally arrived weeks later.

After two days of fighting by the relief forces, Caesar and Cleopatra were victorious. She was replaced on the throne as queen, though Caesar was clearly the victorious leader at this time—January of 47 BC. The young king had disappeared during the two days of fighting and was presumed dead. Caesar placed Cleopatra's youngest brother on the throne as her co-ruler, though all regnal dates were still counted from Cleopatra's accession in 51. Arsinoë was sent to Rome as a captive of Caesar's while he remained in Egypt with Cleopatra for several months. Caesar also returned the traditionally Ptolemaic region of Cyprus to Cleopatra's control from his Roman possessions.

Caesar finally left Egypt in the spring of 47. Cleopatra gave birth to Ptolemy

Caesar on June 23 of the same year, and the Alexandrians, always looking for humor in high places, nicknamed him Caesarion, *Little Caesar*. Caesarion was taken by Cleopatra to Rome in 46 BC to join Caesar. They lived in Caesar's garden palace on the Tiber. Caesar recognized Caesarion as his lawful son and heir and also dedicated a golden statue of Cleopatra in the temple of Venus Genetrix, his family's special goddess.

Cleopatra was reluctantly accepted into Roman royal society with the simple title "The Queen." With Caesar as the ruler, his mistress Cleopatra named queen and entered into the family temple, her infant son recognized and named Caesar's heir, the rule of Cleopatra and Caesar seemed about to take dynastic proportions at Rome and in Egypt, unifying the two mightiest and wealthiest regions of the Greco-Roman world under a single Julio-Ptolemaic family. Caesar had already demanded the title *dictator* and had acquired permanent powers which were previously granted only on an annual basis. He had also had his statue placed in one of the city temples with the inscription *The Unconquerable God*.

In 44 BC, Julius Caesar became the Dictator for Life of Rome, living with his queen, Cleopatra, and their lawful heir, Caesarion. At this point he took a step previously reserved to gods and kings, placing his portrait on the coinage of the mint at Rome with his own slaves controlling the mint when he took over "for life."



The Roman Republic was dead—Caesar now controlled all functions previously considered the prerogative of kings. On the Ides of March, Julius Caesar attended the Senate meeting for the formal debate on whether he would be granted the title *Rex*, King of Rome! Instead of the anticipated debate which he expected to win, Julius Caesar was assassinated by members of the Senate. Cleopatra then fled Rome, taking their son Ptolemy Caesar with her. Her younger brother died soon afterward in Egypt, and Caesarion was named King of Egypt with his mother.

Cleopatra ruled Egypt as queen and issued royal decrees with the phrase "so surely as I will one day give judgment in the Roman capitol." Her alliance with Marc Antony when he became the most powerful Roman soon thereafter kept alive her lifelong dream of taking the Roman world as part of her personal domain. Their eventual defeat by Augustus ended Cleopatra's dream. She committed suicide while a captive of Augustus to avoid being sent to Rome as a trophy in his triumphal procession. Augustus realized that his adoptive claim to be heir to Julius Caesar was still incomplete while Caesarion was alive in exile. He recalled him to Egypt and had him killed so no one with a clearer claim as Caesar's heir would survive.

When news of Cleopatra's death reached Rome, the years of anxiety over Cleopatra's claims were finally laid to rest. A simple measure of public relief and renewed confidence in Roman government can be seen in the fact that interest rates on loans in the city were immediately reduced from 12% to 4% annual interest based on that news!

At a time when Cleopatra most wanted to press her claim to be Queen of Rome, about 44 BC, she had the following coin struck at her mint in Cyprus (which Julius Caesar had given to her and which was her mint city nearest Roman territory). The large bronze 80 drachm coin shows Cleopatra holding the infant Caesarion. The reverse carries the double cornucopia (signifying fertility and wealth) with her name

and title: Cleopatra the Queen.

The imagery and symbolism of this coin is unmistakable—Cleopatra is claiming the title “queen” at a Roman provincial mint given to her by Julius Caesar and portrays herself as mother and protector of Julius Caesar’s lawful heir at Rome. This coupled with her behavior at Rome and her claims that she eventually would rule at Rome made it obvious that Augustus had to destroy her and Caesarion before Rome could ever be truly his own possession without fear of rival claims. (Cleopatra’s children by Marc Antony were allowed to live as they did not pose the same threat to the rule of Rome by Augustus.)

A few specimens of this coin have survived as the most clear numismatic statement of Cleopatra’s intentions regarding the Roman world. It indicates the strength of her claims that she was the only woman in history to be addressed as “The Queen” by the Roman nobility at Rome itself. Some historians have recorded that her first *liaison* with Rome was as Pompey’s lover before Julius Caesar reached Egypt. Others have noted that she tried to seduce Augustus after Antony’s death and only committed suicide when she failed. (It is known that she lived in captivity for several days or weeks before committing suicide.) Her repeated attempts to become *first woman* of Rome lend some credibility to these rumors, but history has kept some of its secrets from us yet.



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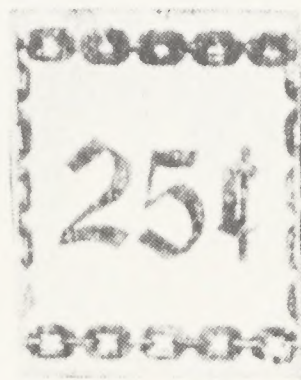
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SAN FRANCISCO THROUGH ITS EXONUMIA

by Jerry F. Schimmel

Febe's

One of the most unconventional tokens ever issued in the city is this 24x32mm rectangular printed leather chit for Febe's. Its issuer was one of the south-of-Market leather bars serving an off-beat wing of the Bay Area's gay community. This hand-cut leather piece is tanned on the obverse and rough-finished on the reverse. The printed black legend reads **FEBE'S** in the configuration of a motorcycle, **11th & FOLSOM, SAN FRANCISCO**. The reverse shows a large **25¢**. (In the early 1970s, a draft beer could still be had for that amount!) Both sides have a chain border design.



The bar opened in 1972, and the token was issued about that time. There is a companion piece of the same size and composition that bears the motorcycle motif and legend on both sides but no denomination. The establishment changed ownership sometime during the early 1980s and is now called the Paradise Lounge—located in a neighborhood that somewhat belies the name of the place.



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